

STATE OF NEW YORK

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2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

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Introduced by M. of A. BRINDISI, GUNTHER, LUPARDO, FAHY, McDONALD, RYAN, TITONE, WOERNER, ORTIZ, MURRAY, PALMESANO, RAIA -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. CROUCH, DiPIETRO, GALEF, SIMON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Environmental Conservation

AN ACT to amend the general municipal law, in relation to the brownfield opportunity area program

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Paragraph d of subdivision 1 of section 970-r of the general municipal law, as amended by section 1 of part F of chapter 577 of the laws of 2004, is amended to read as follows:

2 d. "Brownfield" or "brownfield" site shall have the same meaning as set forth in section 27-1405 of the environmental conservation law.

3 § 2. The subdivision heading of subdivision 2 of section 970-r of the general municipal law, as added by section 1 of part F of chapter 1 of the laws of 2003, is amended to read as follows:

4 [~~State~~] Until July first, two thousand eighteen, state assistance in accordance with this subdivision will be available for pre-nomination study for brownfield opportunity areas.

5 § 3. Paragraphs a, b, and i of subdivision 3 of section 970-r of the general municipal law, paragraph a as amended by section 28 of part BB of chapter 56 of the laws of 2015 and paragraphs b and i as amended by chapter 390 of the laws of 2008, are amended and a new paragraph j is added to read as follows:

6 a. Within the limits of appropriations therefor, the secretary is authorized to provide, on a competitive basis, financial assistance to municipalities, to community based organizations, to community boards, or to municipalities and community based organizations acting in cooperation to prepare a nomination for designation of a brownfield opportunity area. Such financial assistance shall not exceed ninety percent of the costs of such nomination for any such area. A nomination study must

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [~~-~~] is old law to be omitted.

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1 include sufficient information to designate the brownfield opportunity
2 area. ~~[The contents of the nomination study shall be developed based on~~
3 ~~pre-nomination study information, which shall principally consist of an~~
4 ~~area-wide study, documenting the historic brownfield uses in the area~~
5 ~~proposed for designation.]~~

6 b. An application for such financial assistance shall include an indi-
7 cation of support from owners of brownfield sites in the proposed brown-
8 field opportunity area, or alternatively, documentation of requests for
9 such support consisting of at least two means of outreach together with
10 any responses to such requests. All residents and property owners in
11 the proposed brownfield opportunity area shall receive notice of the
12 application for assistance in such form and manner as the secretary
13 shall prescribe.

14 i. ~~[Following]~~ For applications for assistance submitted to the
15 department before July first, two thousand eighteen, following notifica-
16 tion to the applicant that assistance has been awarded, and prior to
17 disbursement of funds, a contract shall be executed between the depart-
18 ment and the applicant or co-applicants. The secretary shall establish
19 terms and conditions for such contracts as the secretary deems appropri-
20 ate, including provisions to define: applicant's work scope, work sched-
21 ule, and deliverables; fiscal reports on budgeted and actual use of
22 funds expended; and requirements for submission of a final fiscal
23 report. The contract shall also require the distribution of work
24 products to the department, and, for community based organizations, to
25 the applicant's municipality. Applicants shall be required to make the
26 results publicly available. ~~[Such contract shall further include a~~
27 ~~provision providing that if]~~

28 j. For applications for assistance submitted on or after July first,
29 two thousand eighteen, following notification to the applicant that
30 assistance has been awarded, and prior to disbursement of funds, the
31 applicant or applicants shall submit for approval by the secretary a
32 proposed nomination work plan. The nomination work plan shall include
33 work scope, work schedule, and deliverables, including fiscal reports on
34 budgeted and actual use of funds expended, and the anticipated date for
35 submission of a final nomination for designation. The work plan shall
36 also require the distribution of work products to the department and,
37 for community based organizations, to the applicant's municipality.
38 Within ninety days of receipt of a proposed work plan or revised work
39 plan, the department shall either approve the work plan or provide the
40 applicant or applicants with a written notice of deficiency, which shall
41 include a detailed description of what further elements are required to
42 revise the work plan. Applicants shall be required to make all work
43 products publicly available.

44 k. If any responsible party payments become available to the appli-
45 cant, the amount of such payments attributable to expenses paid by the
46 award shall be paid to the department by the applicant; provided that
47 the applicant may first apply such responsible party payments toward any
48 actual project costs incurred by the applicant.

49 § 4. Subdivision 4 of section 970-r of the general municipal law, as
50 amended by section 29 of part BB of chapter 56 of the laws of 2015, is
51 amended to read as follows:

52 4. Designation of brownfield opportunity area. a. Upon completion of a
53 nomination for designation of a brownfield opportunity area, it shall be
54 forwarded by the applicant to the secretary, who shall determine whether
55 it is consistent with the provisions of this section. The secretary may
56 review and approve a nomination for designation of a brownfield opportu-

nity area at any time. If the secretary determines that the nomination is consistent with the provisions of this section, the brownfield opportunity area shall be designated. If the secretary determines that the nomination is not consistent with the provisions of this section, the secretary shall make recommendations in writing to the applicant of the manner and nature in which the nomination should be amended. The secretary shall make a determination pursuant to this subdivision within ninety days of receipt of a nomination.

b. As an alternative means of designation, a municipality may, at any time after the secretary has received a completed nomination for designation, designate a brownfield opportunity area by formally adopting the nominated brownfield opportunity area plan as part of the municipality's comprehensive plan following a determination by the municipal planning board, noticed to the secretary, that the nomination is consistent with the provisions of this article. Such planning board's determination and the municipality's designation based on such determination shall be null and void and of no force and effect if within thirty days of the determination of the planning board the secretary provides written notice and findings to the municipality that the secretary has determined that the nomination is not consistent with the provisions of this article.

§ 5. Subdivision 6 of section 970-r of the general municipal law, as added by section 1 of part F of chapter 1 of the laws of 2003, paragraph a and subparagraphs 2 and 5 of paragraph e as amended by section 30 of part BB of chapter 56 of the laws of 2015 and paragraph h as amended by section 1 of part F of chapter 577 of the laws of 2004, is amended to read as follows:

6. State assistance for brownfield site assessments and implementation activities in brownfield opportunity areas. a. Within the limits of appropriations therefor, the secretary ~~[of state]~~ is authorized to provide, on a competitive basis, financial assistance to municipalities, to community based organizations, to community boards, or to municipalities and community based organizations acting in cooperation to conduct brownfield site assessments. Such financial assistance shall not exceed ninety percent of the costs of such brownfield site assessment.

~~[b.]~~ Brownfield sites eligible for such assistance must be owned by a municipality, or volunteer as such term is defined in section 27-1405 of the environmental conservation law.

~~[c.]~~ Brownfield site assessment activities eligible for funding include, but are not limited to, testing of properties to determine the nature and extent of the contamination (including soil and groundwater), environmental assessments, the development of a proposed remediation strategy to address any identified contamination, and any other activities deemed appropriate by the commissioner in consultation with the secretary of state. Any environmental assessment shall be subject to the review and approval of such commissioner.

~~[d.]~~ Applications for such assistance for site assessment shall be submitted to both the secretary and the commissioner in a format, and containing such information, as prescribed by the commissioner in consultation with the secretary ~~[of state]~~.

b. Within the limits of appropriations therefor, the secretary is authorized to provide, on a competitive basis, financial assistance to municipalities, to community based organizations, to community boards, or to municipalities and community based organizations acting in cooperation to conduct implementation activities in a brownfield opportunity area designated pursuant to this section. Such financial assistance shall not exceed ninety percent of the costs of such activities. Imple-

1 mentation activities eligible for funding include but are not limited
2 to, demolition, asbestos removal, financial analysis, infrastructure
3 improvement, design, landscaping, environmental assessment, and enhance-
4 ment or addition of public amenities. Applications for such assistance
5 shall provide a description of the proposed activity or activities
6 sufficient to demonstrate anticipated costs and how the proposed activ-
7 ity or activities advances the goals and objectives of the brownfield
8 opportunity plan.

9 [e] c. Funding preferences ~~[shall be given to applications]~~ for [such]
10 assistance pursuant to this subdivision shall be given to applications
11 that relate to areas having one or more of the following character-
12 istics:

13 (1) areas for which the application is a partnered application by a
14 municipality and a community based organization;

15 (2) areas with concentrations of known or suspected brownfield sites;

16 (3) areas for which the application demonstrates support from a muni-
17 cipality and a community based organization;

18 (4) areas showing indicators of economic distress including low resi-
19 dent incomes, high unemployment, high commercial vacancy rates,
20 depressed property values; and

21 (5) areas with known or suspected brownfield sites presenting strate-
22 gic opportunities to stimulate economic development, community revitali-
23 zation or the siting of public amenities.

24 [f] d. The ~~[commissioner]~~ secretary, upon the receipt of an applica-
25 tion for such assistance from a community based organization not in
26 cooperation with the local government having jurisdiction over the
27 proposed brownfield opportunity area, shall request the municipal
28 government to review and state the municipal government's support or
29 lack of support. The municipal government's statement shall be consid-
30 ered a part of the application.

31 [g] e. Prior to making an award for assistance, the ~~[commissioner]~~
32 secretary shall notify the temporary president of the senate and the
33 speaker of the assembly.

34 [h] f. Following notification to the applicant that assistance has
35 been awarded, and prior to disbursement of funds~~[, a contract shall be~~
36 ~~executed between the department and the applicant or co-applicants. The~~
37 ~~commissioner shall establish terms and conditions for such contracts as~~
38 ~~the commissioner deems appropriate in consultation with the secretary of~~
39 ~~state, including provisions to define: applicant's], the applicant or~~
40 applicants shall submit a proposed implementation work plan to the
41 department and receive approval for such work plan. The work plan shall
42 include work scope, work schedule, and deliverables~~[, including~~ fiscal
43 reports on budgeted and actual use of funds expended~~[, and [require-~~
44 ~~ments]~~ the anticipated date for submission of a final ~~[fiscal]~~ report.
45 The ~~[contract]~~ work plan shall also require the distribution of work
46 products to the department, and, for community based organizations, to
47 the applicant's municipality. Within sixty days of receipt of a
48 proposed work plan or revised work plan, the department shall either
49 approve the work plan or provide the applicant or applicants with a
50 notice of deficiency, which shall include a detailed description of what
51 further elements are required to revise the work plan. Applicants shall
52 be required to make ~~[the results]~~ all work products publicly available.
53 ~~[Such contract shall further include a provision providing that if]~~

54 g. If any responsible party payments become available to the appli-
55 cant, the amount of such payments attributable to expenses paid by the
56 award shall be paid to the department by the applicant; provided that

1 the applicant may first apply such responsible party payments towards
2 actual project costs incurred by the applicant.

3 § 6. Subdivision 7 of section 970-r of the general municipal law, as
4 amended by chapter 390 of the laws of 2008, is amended to read as
5 follows:

6 7. Amendments to designated area. Any proposed amendment to a brown-
7 field opportunity area [~~designated pursuant to this section~~] or brown-
8 field opportunity area plan shall be [~~proposed~~] submitted to, and
9 reviewed by the secretary[~~, in the same manner and using the same crite-~~
10 ~~ria set forth in this section and applicable to an initial nomination~~
11 ~~for the designation of a brownfield opportunity area~~]. The secretary
12 shall promulgate rules that contain criteria and timeframes for review
13 and approval of amendments.

14 § 7. Subdivision 8 of section 970-r of the general municipal law, as
15 added by section 1 of part F of chapter 1 of the laws of 2003, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 8. Applications. a. All applications for [~~pre-nomination study~~]
18 assistance [~~or applications~~] and nominations for designation of a brown-
19 field opportunity area shall demonstrate that the following community
20 participation activities have been or will be performed by the appli-
21 cant:

22 (1) identification of the interested public and preparation of a
23 contact list;

24 (2) identification of major issues of public concern;

25 (3) provision [~~to~~] for access to [~~the draft and final~~] any application
26 for [~~pre-nomination~~] assistance and nomination for brownfield opportu-
27 nity area designation and supporting documents in a manner convenient to
28 the public;

29 (4) public notice and newspaper notice of (i) the intent of the muni-
30 cipality and/or community based organization to [~~undertake a pre-nomina-~~
31 ~~tion process or prepare~~] seek assistance for or nominate a brownfield
32 opportunity area [~~plan~~], and (ii) the availability of such application.

33 b. Application for nomination of a brownfield opportunity area shall
34 provide the following minimum community participation activities:

35 (1) a comment period of at least thirty days on a draft application;

36 (2) a public meeting on a brownfield opportunity area draft applica-
37 tion.

38 § 8. Subdivision 10 of section 970-r of the general municipal law, as
39 added by section 31 of part BB of chapter 56 of the laws of 2015, is
40 amended to read as follows:

41 10. [~~The~~] By December thirty-first, two thousand eighteen, the secre-
42 tary shall establish criteria for brownfield opportunity area conform-
43 ance determinations for purposes of the brownfield redevelopment tax
44 credit component pursuant to clause (ii) of subparagraph (B) of para-
45 graph [~~(5)~~] five of subdivision (a) of section twenty-one of the tax
46 law. In establishing criteria, the secretary shall be guided by, but not
47 limited to, the following considerations: how the proposed use and
48 development advances the designated brownfield opportunity area plan's
49 vision statement, goals and objectives for revitalization; how the
50 density of development and associated buildings and structures advances
51 the plan's objectives, desired redevelopment and priorities for invest-
52 ment; and how the project complies with zoning and other local laws and
53 standards to guide and ensure appropriate use of the project site.

54 § 9. Section 970-r of the general municipal law is amended by adding a
55 new subdivision 11 to read as follows:

1 11. By December thirty-first, two thousand eighteen, the secretary
2 shall establish criteria for determining consistency with this section
3 for purposes of brownfield opportunity area designations. In establish-
4 ing criteria, the secretary shall be guided by, but not limited to, the
5 following considerations: how adequately the nomination describes the
6 current status of the brownfield opportunity area, whether the nomi-
7 nation presents an attainable and realistic plan for revitalization, and
8 whether the plan is supported by the community.

9 § 10. This act shall take effect immediately.